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Reptiles and 103 Birds are here recorded, many of them accompanied with copious annotations. We notice with some surprise that the word America preceeds Coot, Barn Swallow and also Magpie. In the last case it seems more defensible in order to distinguish it from the Yellow-billed Magpie. We also note the use of the word Eastern in reference to *Tyrannus tyrannus*, which seems to us entirely proper when *Tyrannus verticalis* is called Western Kingbird.

Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 1-124, pls. 1-14. February 13, 1912. Report on collection of Birds and Mammals from Vancouver Island. By Harry S. Swarth. The collection was made by the author with the assistance of Mr. E. Despard. The collecting began on April 24 and closed on September 28. 111 birds and 20 mammals are here recorded, accompanied by interesting and valuable annotations. Mr. Swarth is an adept at making collections and carrying away facts relating to the lives of animals.

This series of papers from the Zoölogical department of the University of California indicates in an incomplete and feeble way what it is doing toward securing an accurate picture of the animal life of that incomparable coast region. If every state university was as wide awake to its possibilities in the same line of work the time would not be long until we would have at hand the preliminary surveys of the animals of the whole nation as a basis for the more intensive studies which we may see just ahead.

L. J.

SMITHSONIAN MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTIONS. Volume 56.

No. 25. Descriptions of Seven New African Grass-Warblers of the Genus *Cisticola*. By Edgar A. Mearns, Associate in Zoölogy, U. S. National Museum. "This paper is the fifteenth dealing with the results of the Smithsonian African Expedition, under the direction of Col. Theodore Roosevelt." The paper is concerned only with descriptions of the new forms, two of which are full species.

No. 27. A New Kingfisher from Panama. By E. A. Goldman. This new form is appropriately named *Ceryle americana isthmica*, since the type is from Rio Indio (near Gatun), Canal Zone, Panama.

No. 28. Description of a New Species of Sun-bird, *Helionympha raineyi*, from British East Africa. By Edgar A. Mearns.

No. 30. A New Subspecies of Ptarmigan from the Aleutian Islands. By A. C. Bent. This is described as *Lagopus rupestris sanfordi*, Tanaga Ptarmigan collected at Tanaga Island, Alaska during Mr. Bent's 1911 expedition to the Aleutian Islands.

No. 32. Notes On Birds Observed During a Brief Visit to the

Aleutian Islands, and Behring Sea in 1911. By A. C. Bent. "We sailed from Seattle on May 19, and took the inside passage north to Ketchikan, where we remained a few days to take on some spar buoys, and from there we sailed out through Dixon Entrance and nearly west across the Pacific Ocean to Unimak Pass. We entered the Pass on June 4, anchored for the night at Akun Island and reached Unalaska on June 5. After discharging our cargo and coaling, we started on the western trip and among the Aleutian Islands on June 10, with orders for the *Tahoma* to return to Unalaska on July 1. This gave us less than three weeks in which to explore over eight hundred miles of difficult islands, an undertaking for which three months would have been hardly time enough. We cruised the whole length of the chain, however, and landed on Stka Kiska, Attu, Tanaga, and Adak Islands, besides visiting the western end of Unalaska Island, landing at Chernofski." The "Birds Noted in the Aleutian Islands in June, 1911," comprise a list of 64 species and subspecies, and the "Birds Noted in Behring Sea in July, 1911," 17 species and 5 subspecies. The paper contains many annotations of interest. It seems a pity that more time could not have been devoted to this little known region.

No. 37. Descriptions of Two New Species of Nun Birds from Panama. By E. W. Nelson. These two species were collected on Cerro Azul, Panama (altitude 800 feet), in March, 1911, by Mr. E. A. Goldman. Only a single specimen of each was found.

L. J.

Instinct and Intelligence in Birds. By Professor Francis H. Herrick. Reprinted from the Popular Science Monthly, June, July and August, 1910. Pp. 532-558, 82-97, 122-141. "The instincts of birds may be classed in a general way as (1) continuous instincts, which are needed for the preservation of the individual, such as preying, flight, concealment and fear, however subject to modification through experience, and (2) the cyclical instincts, which are necessary for the preservation of the race."

The cyclical instincts, which of necessity are discontinuous, are given as follows:

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| 1. Migration to Breeding Area; | 5. Incubation and care of eggs; |
| 2. Courtship and Mating; | 6. Care of Young in Nest; |
| 3. Nest Building; | 7. Care of Young out of Nest; |
| 4. Laying Eggs in Nest; | 8. Migration to Feeding Area. |

The question as to what causes bring about the recurrence of these cyclical instincts is not discussed. Here is a fruitful field for investigation. It is upon the proper attunement of these cyclical instincts that the continuance of the species depends. Thus